Radio Havana - November 16 con:

Ques: Well, the fact of being out of a job is not enough to risk...or push anyone into such an adventure. Any other reasons?
Ans: No, I have never been mixed up in politics.
Ques: Did anyone explain the idea or the motive behind it before your enrollment?
Ans: No.
Ques: Was it never explained to you?
Ans: No. The only thing I knew was we were working for Americans.
Ques: That means they were paying you. How?
Ans: They paid me $275 for being purser of the ship. I was promoted three months ago.

Ques: You were captured in Pinar del Rio. Where did you leave from?
Ans: West Palm Beach, Florida.
Ques: Do you or any of the others have any political affiliations or belong to any of the groups in Miami?
Ans: No, we did not have any political affiliations with any group. We work under direct orders of the CIA.
Ques: But the others?
Ans: We all worked on the ship and were paid by Americans - agents of the CIA. Hank, he was in charge of the infiltration team that was to be landed in Cuba. That is why we came aboard the Rex.
Ques: How many are in the crew of the Rex?
Ans: Now about 40 to 45 men but the ship only took (on?) some after entering Cuban waters.

Ques: (Something about the Coast Guard. Could not understand whether the question was about the U.S. or Cuban Coast Guard.)
Ans: On many occasions they met us, dropped flares, etc.
Ques: What were the objectives of the infiltration groups?
Ans: The main objective was: 1. to establish an intelligence network, organize spy rings, and get military information to broadcast to the CIA base in the U.S. 2. Organize resistance groups which would revolt when the CIA gave the word.

Ques: Could it be said for information that the CIA has decided to use Cuban counter-revolutionaries to act under its direction in attacks against Cuba?
Ans: Exactly! That is the way they are working now, in a direct form.
Ques: Did you and the rest of the passengers on the Rex know about the devastation caused by the hurricane?
Ans: Yes, we read it in the press.
Ques: And did you know that that type of attack made in the wake of such a natural calamity was a violation of the most elementary human (decency?) ?
Ans: Our mission was not an attack. It was clandestine infiltration to gather military information. It was not an attack.
Ques: Maybe it was not an attack but I think you would agree it was an aggressive mission since it would provoke reaction of the country's defence.
Ans: Yes, of course.

After being thus questioned, correspondents asked two members of the crew of the pirate ship if the Rex had carried out target shooting at sea.

Ques: Where were you trained?
Ans: We just did some target shooting at sea with ? calibre machine guns.
Ques: Where?
Ans: At Cape Canaveral.
Ques: Who paid your salaries?
Ans: The captain, an American, gave the money. The captain, a former officer of the Navy, he paid us.

Radio Havana - November 16 con:

Ques: Could you tell us about any of the attacks in which you participated?
Ans: In the attack on the chemical plant at Santa Lucia in Pinar del Rio. On that occasion we left from West Palm Beach, Florida, and came 30 or 40 miles off shore and then landed a launch which was being towed by a yacht. After the attack was over the small yacht was sent on its way and we went back to Miami and stayed aboard the Rex for three or four days, probably so the crew would not talk about the attack.
Ques:How many trips did you make?
Ans: We made six trips to Cuba.

Ques: I would like you to answer this question. You stated previously that on all these missions the Rex left West Palm Beach. That is U.S. territory?
Ans: Yes, that is U.S. territory.
Ques: You should know that on numerous occasions President Kennedy has said the U.S. Government is against ships leaving U.S. territory to carry out attacks against Cuba.
Ans: The truth is they don't allow Cubans to do it on their own. They only leave on CIA ships.
Ques: Then all these statements about not allowing U.S. ships to attack Cuba are an open lie.
Ans: Yes, of course.
Ques: They don't tell the Cubans in Miami they can do it because it is the CIA that does these actions; the raids; the landings are planned by the CIA and leave from the U.S. The Americans do it but blame you?
Ans: Yes.
Ques: And the base of the Rex is on U.S. territory?
Ans: Yes, it is berthed at West Palm Beach in a public dock. The ship is supposed to be for ? hydraulic investigation.

Ques:In Cuba were you an agent of the CIA?
Ans: Yes sir.
Ques: How and when were you recruited?
Ans: I was recruited in October 1962 in Miami under the direction of an Army (officer?) during the October crisis. They came to see x of the CIA.
Ques:Who?
Ans: A Mr. Hank.
Ques: Then this Mr. Hank who has been in charge of this infiltration is an American?
Ans: Yes, of course he is an American.
Ques: He works for the CIA?
Ans: Yes, of course. He is an official of the CIA - a ? official.
Ques: What is that?
Ans: He works in the CIA infiltration Department and is in charge of our group. He is responsible for its training - everything.
Ques: Does it mean that the operations were directly in the hands of CIA officials? That the attempts to infiltrate were directly in the hands of CIA officials?
Ans: It was so, or at least the ones I took part in.
Ques: Who actually planned these operations?
Ans: I don't think they planned the operations. I would say it was done by one of the top guys in one of the offices. The only contact we had with them was with the official in charge of our group.
Ques: It is this official person then that gives you the orders?
Ans: Yes sir.

Ques: You mentioned a man named (name), a Senator during the Batista tyranny. Were there any other former Batista (politicians?) in these landings?
Ans: I don't know. I took part in the attack against the Santa Lucia chemical plant but my team did not have anything to do with the others.

Radio Havana - November 16 con:

Ques: Before you became a CIA agent did you belong to any Cuban exile group in Miami?
Ans: I belonged to the Christian Democratic Movement.
Ques: Will you by chance remember (name) under the old Machado regime?
Ans: Yes, we are cousins.
Ques: What was your line of work before?
Ans: I was a lawyer. I worked as an attorney for Havana University and was at the school until December 1960 when I left Cuba.
Ques: You were a lawyer, a cultured man. Would you say that these landings planned and carried out by the U.S. Government are a violation of the United Nations Charter and international law; an open violation of all those international agreements?
Ans: Yes, of course, they are open violations of all those international agreements.
Ques: Some Americans and the U.S. news agencies talk about the possibility that the Cuban Government staged a pre-arranged show using some communists, and made them pass off as CIA agents captured in Cuba. What do you think?
Ans: I don't know anything about those press reports. I can only say it looks like very coarse talk evidently to cover up. I don't think anybody in the U.S. thinks I am a communist. I think it has no validity but would be an effort to serve as an alibi. I don't think it would carry any weight as an alibi.

Ques: When did you leave Cuba?
Ans: I left in 1961.
Ques: Why?
Ans: The truth is I had not planned to. I was just helping a brother-in-law and left at the last moment. I went with him.
Ques: What did you do in Cuba?
Ans: I was a fisherman.
Ques: Why did you enroll in these actions?
Ans: Because I wanted work. I was out of work in the U.S.
Ques: You left your own country where you had work to go to a foreign power which is attacking Cuba and you found yourself without a job there?
Ans: Yes sir. I worked for awhile. I worked at first harvesting tomato crops and things like that. Some have work there and others don't.

Ques: How were you recruited by the CIA?
Ans: Through (?) . I used to be in the Navy. I mean Batista's Navy and was for sometime in the present Cuban Navy.
Ques: About the objective of your mission to Cuba. If you were recruited by a former Batista (?) and paid by Americans could you not guess the real motive of these trips was to bring arms and things like that? That was why you were coming to Cuba?
Ans: We knew but we never thought of the specific mission of each trip.

Ques: When did you leave Cuba?
Ans: Eight months ago.
Ques: Did you have work?
Ans: Yes, of course. I worked for the Agrarian Reform Institute.
Ques: What did you make?
Ans: 150 to 140 pesos a month.
Ques: Why did you leave?
Ans: I seem to have got carried out of my course. (He explained he had trouble with some members of the family.) I could not stand living with them.....I thought I would get a job there.

Radio Havana - November 16, con:

Ques: Did you find work in Miami immediately?
Ans: I was one and a half months without work; then I got a job fishing. When I was out of work I received the money they give to exile Cubans at the Refugee place.
Ques: Now about the mission?
Ans: My uncle took me into this. He said I would get good money and no risk because the ship always stayed 30 or 40 miles off shore.
Ques: And you knew this could bring death to your country-men - this criminal attack. It would be a criminal attack. What do you think?
Ans: Yes, the thing is criminal.
Ques: And what would be the result if people like Batista were to come back to Cuba?
Ans: You would have the same thing as before.
Ques: How was it before in Cuba?
Ans: It was a regime where you couldn't utter a sound or get together without fear. You couldn't even talk or stare at anyone.
Ques: And yet you were working with these people?
Ans: It was because I was getting $250 a month and I could help my family.

The correspondent then asked the prisoners if they could send a message to Cuban exiles in Miami what would they advise.

Ques: What piece of advice would you give them?

1. Stop thinking about toppling the Cuban Government. These (?) are really swindlers.
2. I would say don't get mixed up in any of these activities. They are doomed to failure.
3. I would tell them to keep clear of trouble. Don't get into anything. Look what happened to us.

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Radio Havana - November 5: (Back to November 5 because the article in El Mundo has more meaning after reading the account of the interview with the prisoners.)

El Mundo: The appearance on TV of three CIA agents captured at Pinar del Rio, declared El Mundo editorially, confirms the persistence of the CIA in its plans and activities against Cuba, and serves to unmask the two-faced policy of the U.S. imperialists. The U.S. Government tries on the one hand to make believe it is working to achieve world peace while on the other hand it endangers peace through its activities to strangle the Cuban Revolution.

The statements of these CIA agents make it absolutely clear that the CIA has never halted its activities against Cuba. On the contrary, it has broadened and accelerated these activities since the October crisis of last year.

Furthermore, the statements made by these CIA agents prove once more that all the aggressive operations against our country, the violations of our air space and territorial waters, the infiltration of spies and saboteurs, the pirate attacks, the sending in of weapons and the explosives in parcel post packages have been planned, organized and directed by the CIA of the U.S. Government.

This is well known but it is well worth repeating. The statements of these CIA agents show the correctness of Cuba's position in rejecting the offer of U.S. aid made through the Red Cross following the recent hurricane.

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Comments on Today's News: Mrs. Marshall

Here is a story of the U.S. Government's undeclared war against Cuba. The case history of the undeclared war that harms Cuba, harms the reputation of the United States and harms world peace. This is an individual case history of a U.S. citizen. The story appeared in a Havana paper.

Mrs. Marshall, a U.S. citizen who has lived more than 40 years here in Cuba, is a victim of her own Government. She lived here with her husband and they brought up their family here. Her husband was a veteran of the Cuban-Spanish-American war of 1898. He liked Cuba and brought his wife here after that war. One of their boys, William Filbert Marshall, was born in Cuba, served in World War II and was killed. Mrs. Marshall has sons, daughters and grandchildren in the United States who want her to live with them but she prefers to live in Cuba.

Since the death of her husband and her son she has been receiving two pensions from the U.S. Veterans Administration; one for her late husband who fought at San Juan Hill and the pension for her boy killed in World War II. Then, like many others, as a widow and a mother of a World War veteran she had a monthly payment from a $10,000 insurance policy.

But you see, Mrs. Marshall made a big mistake. She lives in Cuba and wants to end her days in the country that has been her home for 40 years. But now Cuba has had a revolution with all the changes that officials in Washington say should be made in Latin America but which drives them mad when it actually takes place somewhere - when it takes place in Cuba. Sothe U.S. imperialists are doing everything possible in their undeclared war to overthrow the Cuban Revolution; to overthrow the Revolutionary Government by force and violence. They exert eonomic pressure of every kind; they maintain a blockade and pressure other countries not to trade with Cuba. The big monopolies that controlled everything in Cuba, the sugar plantations, mining resources, public utilities, etc. want to come back. And the State Department is doing its best to deliver the goods.

Radio Havana - November 5 con:

So Mrs. Marshall has to suffer because U.S. big business wants to get back its profits. Mrs. Marshall has been informed courteously but very firmly that if she wants her pension money and her monthly insurance checks then she has to leave her home and live somewhere else. Anywhere - no matter where - but under no circumstances in Cuba. They will even pay her passage to some other country.

But Mrs. Marshall is also firm. This is her home and here is where she is going to live. Oddly enough she has no problems - at least few you would think of - because she has neighbors who share with her.. She and another son were recently hospitalized because of a motor accident. That her neighbors were much concerned there was much evidence. When they went home from the hospital, they found the neighbors had paid for the electric light, washed their clothing and cleaned the house. Those are neighbors in the way understood by U.S. pioneer families on the frontier but not in the way the U.S. State Department understands the "New Frontier". So Mrs. Marshall goes her way firm in her right to live in the country that has been her home for 40 years.

The mean, little-minded men in Washington are baffled and can do nothing but cut off her pensions and insurance checks and tear up the obligation of the U.S. Government in their undeclared war on Cuba.

But sooner or later the Government of a great power will have to stop making itself ridiculous in the eyes of the world and will have to accept the pressures of the world for peace. This pressure is being felt in Washington now; pressure for relaxed tensions but relaxation of tensions is impossible while the U.S. Government maintains its undeclared war on Cuba. Cuba is firmly confident in the justice of her position being always ready to negotiate difficulties on a basis of equality. And we believe that the world will have a better understanding and that this will find expression and will oblige Washington to recognize that peace begins at home with neighbors and must be based on respect for international law, respect for the sovereignty of other countries and as a by-product of that Mrs. Marshall will get her checks again; the pensions for two lives offered in the service of the United States.

This is just one incident but one that casts light on the absurdity of U.S. policy. They can make it hard for Mrs. Marshall but in good time her pension checks will be sent again and the insurance money will be paid.

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